GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1898
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
FLOODS IN POBITORA SANCTUARY
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire core area of the Pobitora sanctuary has been under unprecedented floods during July this year;

(b) if so, the period for which and the extent to which Pobitora sanctuary suffered loss of life, particularly wildlife thereby; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent flooding of the Sanctuary and restore normalcy indicating the cost involved and the Central aid extended?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) & (b) The Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Government of Assam has reported that the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary was under flood waters during July this year but the intensity of flood was less than that of the previous year. The flood waters entered the sanctuary on 1-7-2003 and remained for about 20 days. No loss of life has been reported from the area during this period.

(c) Low flooding in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is not a major problem. However, during high floods the animals face problem and take shelter on the highlands constructed artificially for this purpose within the sanctuary. No financial assistance has been asked by the State Government of Assam for prevention of floods in the sanctuary. However, the Central Government has provided financial assistance of Rs. 51.64 lakhs under the scheme, `Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries`, during last three years for development and management of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.